Cases of Abductions in Gujarat

3446. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many cases of abductions for ransom have taken place in Gujarat during the last two years;

(b) in how many cases persons abducted were released and in how many cases abducted persons were killed; and

(c) in how many cases police have apprehended the culprits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Peace Process between Government and Nagas

3447. SHRI KULDIP NAYYAR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) at what stage is the peace process between the Central Government and the underground Nagas;

(b) why the pace is so slow; and

(c) what are the impediments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) to (c) It would not be in public interest to divulge the details of talks with the NSCN(I/M) at this stage.

Dialogue with Militant Groups in Kashmir

3448. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to initiate a dialogue with certain militant groups in Kashmir;

(b) if so, whether this will also include such groups which have ISI links;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and if not, why;

(d) the broad framework of the dialogue;

(e) whether the Hurriyat conference has responded to the offer of talks by insisting on participation of the Pakistani Government in such talks;

(f) if so, the response of Government thereto; and

(g) whether Government are going to come out with a white paper on ISI as promised earlier?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CH. VIDYASAGAR RAO): (a) to (f) During his visit to J&K on 26-27 July, 1997 the then Prime Minister had made an appeal to the misguided youth of the State, who have joined the militant ranks, to give up their guns, and said that the Government was prepared to have unconditional talks with them, to enable them to rejoin the mainstream. The Government is still committed to the said offer of talks, within the constitutional framework.

(g) All relevant aspects pertaining to white paper on ISI activities are under close examination at the present.

Standing Committee of Inter State Council

3449. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Standing Committee of the Inter State Council was constituted recently under the Chairmanship of the Home Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the West Bengal Finance Minister proposed a series of Constitutional amendments on the line of the Sarkaria Commission recommendations;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether any consensus arouse thereto; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and the follow-up action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI I.D. SWAMI): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Standing Committee of the Inter-State Council has been reconstituted vide the Govt. of India, Ministry of Home Affairs Notification dated 7.2.2000. The composition of the Standing Committee is as follows:—

Chairman:

Shri L.K. Advani
Minister of Home Affairs